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(Representing)

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms Room 411 West State Capitol Madison, WI 53702

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms.
Room 411 West
State Capitol

Madison, WI 53702

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### WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE 27TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

December 9, 1997

TO: Members,

Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs

FROM: Representative Clifford Otte, Chair

D

RE: Future Meetings

At this time, I intend to schedule two more meetings for the Committee, **January 29** and **February 26**. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS and KEEP THESE DATES FREE.

Tentatively, our agenda on January 29 will include (but will not necessarily be limited to) a hearing on AB 400 and AB 466, (previously scheduled for December 4), and executive action on AB 389, AB 416 and SB 322.

Preliminary

### **Assembly**

### **Record of Committee Proceedings**

### **Committee on Consumer Affairs**

### **Assembly Bill 400**

Relating to: regulating residential telephone solicitation and providing a penalty. By Representatives Baumgart, Black, Gronemus, Gunderson, Hasenohrl, Kelso, Murat, Notestein and R. Young.

June 4, 1997

Referred to committee on Consumer Affairs.

January 29, 1998

### PUBLIC HEARING HELD

(8)

Present:

Representatives Otte, Johnsrud, Ott, M.

Lehman, Urban, Williams, Hasenohrl and

Black.

Absent:

(0) None.

### Appearances for

• Representative Jim Baumgart, author

### Appearances against

• Kathy Gibson, Ameritech

### Appearances for Information Only

None.

### Registrations for

- David Ghilardi, Asst. Legal Counsel, Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
- Kelly Kennedy, Department of Justice

### Registrations against

- Lee Fanshaw, Stevens Point, Sentry Insurance
- Ron Kuehn, Madison, WI Assn. of Life Underwriters;
   Independent Insurance Agents; Professional Insurance Agents
- Michael Youngman, Milwaukee, Northwestern Mutual Life
- Doug Johnson, Madison, Wisconsin Merchants Federation
- Tony Driessen, Milwaukee, MCI

October 22, 1997

Representative Jim Baumgart 3 North, State Capitol Madison, WI INTER-D

Dear Representative Baumgart:

Thank you for your letter requesting a public hearing on Assembly Bill 400. At this point I have a backlog of such requests, which I am attempting to honor.

My ability to hold hearings has been hindered by a number of circumstances generally beyond my control. These include the budget delay, a conflict in scheduling with a committee that I am vice-chair of, and a "policy" that has been "established" generally prohibiting holding any committee meetings on session days. The latter policy will likely preclude me from scheduling any committee meetings in November.

I have added your request to the growing list and I hope to hold a hearing on your bill on either December 4 or January 29. If you have any questions, please contact me or the committee clerk, Dan Young.

Sincerely,

CLIFFORD OTTE Chairman Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs.

CO:bmd



### James R. Baumgart

26th Assembly District: City of Sheboygan-Wards 1-3,5,6,9,11-16 City of Sheboygan Falls Village of Kohler Town of Sheboygan Town of Sheboygan Falls Ward 4

October 10, 1997

Representative Clifford Otte Chair Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs Room 318 North, State Capitol Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Otte:

Assembly Bill 400 which I authored relating to residential telephone solicitation was introduced on August 7, 1997, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs. To date there has been further committee action taken on AB400.

Your consideration of holding a public hearing on AB400 is requested. Today, with all the unwanted telephone solicitations the public is being made to tolerate legislation of this nature is needed in our state.

I look forward to hearing from you and/or discussing this request with you.

Sincerely,

J**/m** Baumgart

state Representative 26th Assembly District

JB:wrc

### **Ameritech's Position**

### Regulating Residential Telephone Solicitation Assembly Bill 400

Assembly Bill 400 permits a residential customer to request a telephone directory listing indicating that the consumer does not wish to receive telephone solicitation. Under this bill, a telephone solicitor may not conduct solicitation to such a listing or to a consumer with an unpublished telephone number.

### This bill will have little impact on telephone solicitation for the following reasons:

- Telemarketers do not utilize telephone directories when making calls. Instead, many solicitors
  utilize phone dialers which automatically dial phone numbers. In addition, many solicitors buy
  specialized demographic lists from other businesses to increase the likelihood the customer will
  buy the product.
- The majority of telemarketing calls are interstate in nature and therefore, this legislation will likely have little impact on interstate calls.
- Telephone directories are published once a year. Telephone directories would not be the most upto-date source of information regarding customers who do not wish to receive telephone solicitation calls.
- There are more than 225 telephone directories in Wisconsin. Some of these directories are published by independent directory publishers who are not included in this legislation. It would be impractical for telemarketers across the country to keep copies of all Wisconsin directories to manually search for these listings.

Customers can reduce the number of solicitation calls from national companies by writing to:

Telephone Preference Service Direct Marketing Association P.O. Box 9014 Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

This service is free to customers and serves Wisconsin consumers better because it can be implemented immediately in comparison to updating telephone directories which are published once a year. Information on this service is provided in the front pages of each Ameritech directory. (See attachment.)

Customers may also request that the companies with which they do business not supply their names to other companies. Ameritech customers can call to have their names removed from lists Ameritech provides to other companies. Customers with private (non-published) or semi-private (non-listed) numbers are automatically excluded from these lists. (See attachment.)

If you would like additional information, please contact Mary Ruble at 608-252-2343 or Lorenzo Cruz at 608-252-2006.

### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES 53

Your local telephone services are regulated services, subject to the terms and conditions of its tariffs on file with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

### **Bomb** Threats

Wisconsin law provides that "whoever intentionally conveys or causes to be conveyed any threat of false information, knowing such to be false, concerning an attempt or allowed attempt being made or to be made to destroy any property by the means of explosives" is subject to a fine of \$10,000, two years imprisonment or both.

### **Directory** Errors and Omissions

Ameritech cannot guarantee White Pages listings and is not responsible for damages if your listing is incorrect or omitted. Exceptions are listed in tariffs filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

Should an error occur, our liability is limited by our tariffs to the resulting impairment of the service and in no case shall exceed the charge for the service, excluding message charges, for the period covered by the directory. Errors or omissions in advertising are governed by the terms and conditions of the advertising contract.

To appear accurately in the next directory, listing corrections must arrive at Ameritech four months before the month shown on this directory cover.

### Employee Identification

Every phone company employee carries an identification card showing his or her name and a photograph. If you have any doubt whether someone is from the phone company, please ask to see the person's card.

### Fair Resolution of Complaints

We believe that customers should have access to a readily available process for fair resolution of complaints and grievances concerning services, billing, and other policies and procedures.

If you have a complaint about the service you receive from your phone company, call the appropriate telephone number for "bill questions" or "order placement" (residence customers), or "services and billing" (business customers). These phone numbers are listed under "Telephone And Directory Services" on page 1 of this section.

Your representative has the responsibility to answer questions and make an effort to resolve your problems. He/she is professionally trained and has access to the most current information available about your account. If you are not satisfied with the help you receive from a representative, you will be referred to the person at your phone company best able to help you.

If no telephone company employee can solve the problem to your satisfaction you may refer your complaint to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW). Local telephone companies are among the many utilities regulated under the jurisdiction of the PSCW. To reach this organization write to:

> **Public Service Commission of Wisconsin** P.O. Box 7854 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854

or call the PSCW toll free at: 800 CAL-PSCW (800 225-7729)

### Fraudulent Callers

Persons who charge services to your number or calling card without your permission are subject to prosecution under both federal and state laws. All techniques for getting service from Ameritech without payment are illegal.

### 900/976 Call Blocking Service

In response to public concern over possible misuse of the services or objectionable messages, 900/976 Call Blocking Service will enable your phone to block automatically all calls to "976" numbers within your area code and all calls to "900" numbers. We cannot prevent calls to some "900" or "976" numbers, while allowing others to be completed. There is no charge for restricting your phone the first time, and you may cancel Call Blocking whenever you wish. If you later decide to reorder 900/976 Call Blocking Service, a service connection charge will be applied to your telephone bill. Your service will not be interrupted for non-payment of 900/976 calls. To order 900/976 Call Blocking Service, residence customers should call the number for "order placement" on page 1 of this section. Business customers should call the number for "services" on page 1 of this

### Telephone Sales Calls

If you are not interested when someone calls, just cut in and say so. If you don't want other calls from that company, ask them to take your name off their list. You may reduce the number of at-home telephone solicitation calls from national companies by writing to:

Telephone Preference Service **Direct Marketing Association** P.O. Box 9014 Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

### Obscene and Harassing Calls

It is a criminal offense for anyone to make obscene or harassing phone calls. If you receive such a call:

- Hang up at the first obscore word or if silence lasts past the second "hello".
- Give no information such as your name or address.
- Advise your children to give no information to strangers. If you're not home, it say, "Mother/Father can't come to the phone right now."
- If such calls persist, contact the police. Then call the Ameritech Annoyance Call Burea at 800 769-4099

A brochure about handling harassing or obscene calls is available from the Ameritech Annoyance Call Bureau.

### Prerecorded Messages In Phone Solicitation

Wisconsin statute #134.72 provides that "no person may use an electronically prerecorded message in telephone solicitation without the consent of the person called."

### Privacy of Information

Customer information maintained by your local phone company is protected by law and can be released only through a court order.

### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Recording Calls

If your conversation is being recorded for business or other reasons, one of the following conditions MUST apply:

When recording conversations within Wisconsin: The person recording the conversation is a party to the communication. Or, one of the parties to the communication has given prior consent to the recording of the conversation.

Recording interstate conversations is not permitted unless:

- All parties consent either verbally or in writing, or
- A distinctive tone sounds every 15 seconds during the recording, or
- The party intending to record the conversation notifies the other party at the beginning of the conversation — that the call is being recorded.

Exceptions include recordings made by law enforcement officers and broadcast stations recording for the sole purpose of broadcast.

### Removing Your Name From Local Phone Company Lists



Call your local phone company to have your name removed from lists provided to other companies. Customers with private or semi-private numbers will be excluded from the lists.

To have your name omitted, residence customers should call the number for "order placement" on page 1 of this section. Business customers should call the number for "services" on page 1 of this section.

### **Tariffs**

Tariffs which show rates, rules, and regulations for regulated intrastate telephone services and facilities are available for inspection at:

### **Public Service Commission**

610 N. Whitney Way, Madison

### **Ameritech Employment Office**

• 845 N. 35th St., Milwaukee

(Ameritech Tariffs only)

Ameritech's interstate (outside Wisconsin) tariffs filed with the Federal Communications Commission are available for inspection only at the employment office address above.

### Telephone Safety

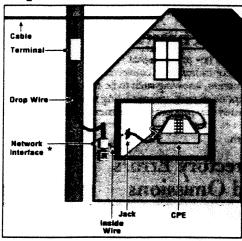
The telephone is one of the safest appliances in the home or office. In a few situations, however, a telephone user needs to be cautious.

- Do not use the phone when you are in a bathtub, shower or pool.
- Avoid using a telephone during electrical storms.
- . If you think you have found a gas look, do not use a telephone near the look.
- . In the event of a flood, termode, earthquake or other disestor, do not use your phone except for an emergency.

### Unlawful Wiretapping

It is a criminal offense to wiretap or otherwise intercept phone calls unless you get permission from one of the people participating in the call. Law enforcement officers with court orders can wiretap without consent.

### Repair Service Information



### Who Is Responsible For Repairs

The Phone Company	Customer					
Cable Drop Wire Network Interface*	CPE (Telephone, FAX, Answering Machine, etc.) Jack					
Terminal	Inside Wiring					

### **BEFORE YOU CALL**

Try to locate the problem before you call Repair Service.

- If your phone set is the problem, contact the manufacturer or the store where you bought the phone. Many phone companies do not repair phone sets.
- Should you have a problem with the premises wiring or jacks, you can fix it yourself, pay the phone company to fix the problem, or hire someone like an electrician to make repairs.

### REPAIR CHARGES

You will not be charged if:

- the trouble is in an outside phone line.
- you have a maintenance plan.

Otherwise, both residence and business customers will usually be charged based on time and materials. Phone company technicians can install inside wire and jacks in your residence or business. An instruction brochure explaining how to install and maintain telephone outlets is also available. To arrange for phone company installation, or to obtain a copy of the brochure, call the telephone number for "order placement" (residence customers) or "services" (business customers) listed on page 1 of this section. Information regarding maintenance plans can also be obtained at this telephone number.

\* The network interface, located either inside or outside the building is where the outside line is connected.



### **USA TODAY**

**OCTOBER 15, 1997** 

### FTC ruling could put stop to unsolicited mail, calls

By Bruce Horovitz USA TODAY

Consumers just got more power to halt unwanted telephone pitches and junk mail.

The Federal Trade Commission told the Direct Marketing Association on Tuesday that it could legally require its 3,600 members to stop soliciting consumers who don't want to be bothered at home. DMA is the nation's largest marketing trade group.

Until now, DMA members from Sears to Citicorp to AT&T were advised — but not required — by DMA to stop soliciting consumers who requested to be dropped from phone and mail lists.

The trade group had feared a requirement would open it to antitrust lawsuits by members that objected. But the FTC said Tuesday that the group would not be liable.

"This gives consumers a lot

more control over who can market to them," says Eileen Harrington, the FTC's associate director for marketing practice.

The changes won't be overnight. DMA doesn't plan to enforce its requirement until July 1, 1999, says Connie Heatley, senior vice president. It will take that long to educate members, she says.

Consumers who do not want telephone and mail solicitations from DMA members can send their names, addresses, and phone numbers to:

► Telephone Preference Service, P.O. Box 9014, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735-9014.

▶ Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735-9008.

About 3.3 million consumers are on the mail list, while 600,000 are on the telephone list, the FTC says.